



U.S. Department of Justice

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WOMAN SENTENCED FOR COMMITTING PASSPORT FRAUD

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced that 26-year-old Yvonne Nanaesi Boham of Lenox Road in Brooklyn, New York, was sentenced today in U. S. District Court after pleading guilty to one count of passport fraud. The defendant was placed on probation for a period of two years and ordered to perform 50 hours of community service. Her status will now be reviewed by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Bureau of the Department of Homeland Security.

Boham, who is a citizen of Ghana, attempted to obtain a United States passport by falsely stating on her passport application that she was born in the U.S. Virgin Islands and by attaching a counterfeit birth certificate to her application that purported to show that she was born in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Boham's passport application was received and reviewed by the National Passport Center located in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Diplomatic Security of the U.S. State Department. Federal agents arrested Boham in New York on September 5, 2002 and she pleaded guilty on January 21, 2002. U.S. Attorney Tom Colantuono stated, "The proliferation of individuals obtaining and using false identification documents to secure United States passports presents a significant threat to our ability to monitor those individuals permitted to enter and stay in the United States. My office will continue to dedicate prosecutorial resources to maintain the integrity of the immigration system by prosecuting those individuals who obtain passports using fraudulent means."

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Helen White Fitzgibbon.